

Tom Horne
Superintendent

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HORNE ISSUES STATEMENT REGARDING STUDENT PROTESTS DURING SCHOOL HOURS

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PHOENIX (March 28, 2006) – State schools chief Tom Horne today issued the following statement in regards to a series of student protests in Phoenix in which numerous students left campus during school hours:

“Protesting is a precious constitutional right, and participating in protests has great educational benefits for young people. However, this should be done after school hours. The first qualities employers look for in graduates is conscientiousness and punctuality. That is why I have opposed “Take Your Child to School Day” during the school year - saying it should be done in the summer. Similarly, protests should be after school.

Since I took office, we have placed a renewed emphasis on academics and rigor. To succeed in today’s economy muscle power is no longer sufficient. Academic brain power is now needed to obtain a decent job. Students must take their academic work seriously during the school day, and should participate in political life after school.

I support the position of those schools with whom I have been in contact, as discipline will be applied to students who played hooky. Students must learn the lesson that actions have consequences.”

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